



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

## GUILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

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To: Public Health Committee:

I am opposition to S. B. #439. Section 1 is my concern. It states that "No person shall hinder or interfere....." Some could have the opinion that "No person" could be the ranking Fire Officer/Incident Commander, and if he or she "hinders or interferes with" an EMS provider from entering an emergency incident scene because the ranking Fire Officer determines that the scene is unsafe, the ranking Fire Officer could be in violation. Assuredly, patient care may be a concern, but the Ranking Fire Officer should have sole control of an incident scene. Currently, in Connecticut, he or she does.

This language appears to be a conflict with Authority of the Fire Officer (CGS 7-313) at the scene of emergency.

In my Thirty (30) years of being a Fire Chief of a Combination Volunteer/Career Department that also provides EMS, I have never had a problem with another agency at the scene of a large scale emergency.

The Fire Officer is responsible to make sure that the scene of emergency can be enter safely without endangering the public and other emergency responders.

Respectfully,  
*Charles E. Herrschaft Jr.*

Charles E. Herrschaft Jr.  
Chief of Department